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Committee on Conferences
Substantive session

Draft report

Addendum

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I. Calendar of conferences and meetings

E. Consideration of the draft biennial calendar of conferences and meetings of subsidiary organs of the Economic and Social Council for 2000–2001

Introduction and overview

1. In its decision 1988/103 of 5 February 1988, the Economic and Social Council invited the Committee on Conferences to review the Council's draft biennial calendar of conferences and meetings and to submit, as appropriate, its recommendations thereon to the Council.

2. At its 417th meeting, on 24 June 1999, the Committee considered the Council's provisional biennial calendar of conferences and meetings for 2000–2001 (E/1999/L.18 and A/AC.172/1999/CRP.1).

Discussion

3. Clarification was sought and received from the Secretariat regarding various aspects of the draft calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2000–2001 in the economic, social and related fields, including but not limited to the overlap of dates of some meetings in the same sectors.

99-25059 (E)

4. Concern was expressed regarding the requests of intergovernmental bodies to seek exceptions to the biennialization of their sessions. Specific attention was drawn to the issue of annualization of the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women starting in 2001, and the view was expressed that this should be reconsidered at an appropriate time in the light of the principle of biennialization of conferences and meetings referred to in paragraph 2 (f) (ii) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/77 of 29 July 1988.

5. The Committee was assured by the Secretariat that the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council were, to the extent possible, scheduled to end their 2000–2001 sessions at least eight weeks prior to the scheduled dates for the substantive session of the Council, in accordance with paragraph 2 (f) (i) of Council resolution 1988/77.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee on Conferences recommended the adoption of the provisional calendar of conferences and meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council for 2000–2001 (E/1999/L.18), with the amendments read out by the representative of the Secretariat.

7. The Committee encouraged the Council to continue its consideration of the biennialization of meetings of its subsidiary bodies.

8. The Committee also expressed the hope that overlap of meetings related to the same sector of activity could be avoided.

9. The Committee encouraged the Council to continue the review of its calendar as a whole in the context of its review of the mandates, composition, functions and working methods of its functional commissions and expert groups and bodies.